GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3272
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
INTERNATIONAL POACHING OF TIGERS
RAJIV PRATAP RUDY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Balmiki Nagar National Park in Bihar has a common international boundary with Nepal;

(b) if so, whether large scale poaching of Tigers crossing the boundary of National Park into Nepal has been noticed by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such international poaching?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India has signed an M.O.U. with Nepal for the protection of wildlife including tigers. A copy of the M.O.U. is at annexure.

ANNEXURE IN RESPECT OF PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3272 TO BE ANSWERED OI 2001 REGARDING INTERNATIONAL POACHING OF TIGERS.

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION BE NEPAL AND INDIA 3-5 Jan.97 AT KATHMANDU

In pursuance of the joint statement made by the representatives of Nepal and India at the 9th Conference of the parties to CITES at Fort Lauderdale, USA in November, 1994, the representatives from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India (in the Department of Forests and Wildlife) and His Majesty`s Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (Department o National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) met at Kathmandu from 3rd to 5th January, 1997 for the 1st transboundary consultative meeting on biodiversity conservation and resolved the following:

Aware of the existence of illegal trade of timber, wild flora and fauna including their parts and products.

Realizing the importance of transborder protected area network for comprehensive ecosystem protection.

Considering various steps taken by both India and Nepal with respect to extension of protected area network and control of illegal trade in flora and fauna in their respective countries.

Noting that there are still some gaps in the methods and systems to address the transborder illegal trade of wild flora and fauna and their products.

Appreciating the necessity of a comprehensive transborder protected area network and installation of suitable mechanism for effective control of illegal trade in timber, wild flora and fauna and their products.

The parties from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India (in the Department of Forests and Wildlife) and HMG o Nepal, in the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) agreed by consensus to :

a. Request all countries to promote a worldwide campaign for conservation of species and ecosystem for long term human welfare.

b. Urge the International communities to abandon the use of illegally obtained timber, wild flora and fauna and their products.

c. Request the support of governments of other countries, inter governmental bodies, international organisations/ communities and agencies to boost up the programmes of ecosystem conservation and control of illegal trade in timber, wild flora and fauna and their products.

The meeting further resolved the following for promoting bilateral cooperation between India and Nepal on the issue of transboundary protected area system and control of illegal trade in timber, flora and fauna and their products.

1. Improve their respective national legislations to address the requirement of CITES.

2. Encourage establishment of transboundary protected areas complementary to each other, wherever possible.

3. Maintain appropriate database system and share information relevant for biodiversity conservation.

4. Establish complementary anti-poaching mechanism and units for prevention of crimes related to forest and wild flora and fauna and prevent illegal trade and encroachment on forest land.

5. Study and monitor the trade routes and species in trade including seasons of trade.

6. Monitor the transboundary movement of wild animals and establish locally a system of early exchange of information.

7. Promote mutual cooperation in the sphere of research, training and visit programmes.

8. Undertake public awareness programmes at national, regional and local levels to involve people in conservation through mass media and local interactions.

9. Establish in-country mechanism to involve all relevant depts. and agencies linked with and interested in control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

And in pursuance of these:

10. Hold regular meetings of this consultative committee to review the progress made and improve the future actions based on experience gained.